



## Workers' Compensation COVID-19 Statistics – FAQs

### 1. How are COVID-19 cases reported to the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission?

There are two ways to report a possible COVID-19 workers' compensation case to the Commission.

- 1) An injured worker or his/her attorney can file a Claim for Benefits noting COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury.
- 2) A Claim Administrator who was made aware of a possible COVID-19 workers' compensation case, can file an EDI FROI transaction noting COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury.

### 2. What is the precise definition of a COVID-19 case?

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission uses WCIO Nature of Injury Codes for injuries that are reported by an employer, insurer or injured worker. WCIO adopted code 83 – COVID-19 in March of 2020. Their definition is "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus."

### 3. What is the difference between Total COVID-19 Cases Reported and Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed?

The number listed for **Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported** is the total number of Jurisdiction Claim Numbers (JCNs) the Commission has for reported COVID-19 cases.

The number listed for **Total Claim for Benefits Filed** is the total number of JCNs with COVID-19 as the Nature of Injury where a Claim for Benefits form was also filed by the injured worker or his/her attorney.

### 4. On the provided stats, is a COVID-19 Claim for Benefits a filed workers' compensation claim?

Yes, the **Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed** is the number of claim forms filed by the claimant or his/her attorney for workers' compensation benefits related to a COVID-19 diagnosis.



**5. According to your website, only a portion of the overall COVID-19 cases with a Claim for Benefits filed have awards or denials. What is the current status of the remaining JCNs? Are they still being adjudicated?**

There is no way to accurately answer this question without researching every JCN in which a Claim for Benefits was filed. Further consideration of a particular Claim for Benefits could be waiting for additional information, the Claim for Benefits could be on a hearing docket pending adjudication, the Claim for Benefits could have been withdrawn prior to adjudication, etc.

It is important to note that there isn't necessarily a correlation between the number of Claim for Benefits filed, awards entered and denials. When the data was pulled, the Commission looked for the number of JCNs with COVID-19 Nature of Injury codes, the number with COVID-19 and a denial by the Claim Administrator, the number of COVID-19 with an Award and the number of COVID-19 with a Claim for Benefits filed. Employers and insurers may deny claims and agree to awards even where the injured worker has not filed a Claim for Benefits. While some of the denials and awards listed in the totals may be in a JCN where a Claim for Benefits was filed, there is also a chance that is not the case at all.

**6. For the monthly breakdown provided, is this the number of COVID-19 cases reported each month or the number with a Date of Injury date in that month?**

The monthly breakdown shows the total number of COVID-19 JCNs with a Date of Injury in that month.

**7. For Total COVID-19 Claims Awarded, is that by Opinion, by Award Agreement of the parties, or the combination of both?**

For **Total COVID-19 Claims Awarded**, this is any JCN that has an Award entered and the Award can be entered by any means (Orders, Opinion, or Agreements).

**8. For Total COVID-19 Claims Denied, is that a denial per an Opinion or a formal notification of denial by the employer/carrier?**

For **Total COVID-19 Claims Denied**, this is the number of JCNs with an EDI Denial transaction filed by the Claim Administrator to indicate their denial of the case. It does not mean that the claims were denied by the Commission following adjudication. A claim can be denied by a Claim Administrator and still be awarded by the Commission.



## **9. Why is 'Total COVID-19 Claim Awards' not equal to the 'COVID-19 Claim Award Types' in the chart breakdown?**

The Total COVID-19 Claim Awards is the total number of JCNs where an award has been entered. It is possible to have more than one award per JCN, which is why the Award Types breakdown shows more awards.

## **10. If an employee was required to get the Covid-19 vaccine by their employer and has an adverse reaction, how should that be reported to the Commission via EDI?**

When submitting a First Report of Injury:

Nature of Injury Code (DN0035)

- Do not use code 83 (COVID19) as that is only used to report COVID-19 cases.
- For all other injuries involving COVID-19, including adverse reactions to a vaccine, should be coded in accordance with the remaining nature of injury codes based on the injury/illness being claimed.
- Cause of Injury Code (DN0037) should be populated with code 83 (pandemic) for all injuries/illnesses involving or related to COVID-19 including adverse reactions to a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Please be sure to indicate in the Accident/Injury Narrative field that the Employee suffered an adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine which was a requirement of the employer.



## **11. Data Reported- by month**

### **October 1, 2020**

<b>2020 COVID-19 Cases Reported</b>	
January	1
February	4
March	941
April	1,630
May	1,238
June	1,282
July	1,127
August	736
September	321
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,280</b>

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Details</b>	
Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	119
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	1,327
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	639
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	13

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Award Types</b>	
Original Award	99
Medical Only	16
Additional Award	1
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	3
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	3
Amended Original	2



## **November 1, 2020**

<b>2020 COVID-19 Cases Reported</b>	
January	1
February	4
March	958
April	1,649
May	1,253
June	1,288
July	1,185
August	808
September	717
October	513
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,376</b>

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Details</b>	
Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	161
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	1,695
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	722
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	17

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Award Types</b>	
Original Award	138
Medical Only	19
Additional Award	2
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	3
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	3
Amended Original	2



## **December 1, 2020**

<b>2020 COVID-19 Cases Reported</b>	
January	1
February	4
March	961
April	1,651
May	1,253
June	1,291
July	1,190
August	815
September	752
October	793
November	793
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,504</b>

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Details</b>	
Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	195
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	2,080
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	807
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	18

<b>2020 COVID-19 Claim Award Types</b>	
Original Award	165
Medical Only	23
Additional Award	2
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	7
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	3
Amended Original	3



## **January 1, 2021**

<b>2020 COVID-19 Cases Reported</b>	
January	16
February	4
March	961
April	1,652
May	1,255
June	1,293
July	1,193
August	822
September	769
October	856
November	1,464
December	1,313
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,598</b>

<b>Jan.-Dec. 2020 COVID-19 Claim Details</b>	
Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	230
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	2,658
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	935
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	19

<b>Jan.-Dec. 2020 COVID-19 Claim Award Types</b>	
Original Award	195
Medical Only	24
Additional Award	2
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	10
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	3
Amended Original	3
Fatal	1



## **February 1, 2021**

January 2020	6
February 2020	4
March 2020	965
April 2020	1,654
May 2020	1,268
June 2020	1,297
July 2020	1,199
August 2020	830
September 2020	806
October 2020	905
November 2020	1,602
December 2020	2,082
January 2021	974
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,592</b>

### **Jan. 2020-Jan. 2021 COVID-19 Claim Details**

Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	276
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	3,269
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	1,117
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	20

### **Jan. 2020-Jan. 2021 COVID-19 Claim Award Types**

Original Award	225
Medical Only	32
Additional Award	2
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	15
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	6
Amended Original	3
Fatal	1





## **March 1, 2021**

January 2020	8
February 2020	6
March 2020	966
April 2020	1,661
May 2020	1,269
June 2020	1,297
July 2020	1,205
August 2020	849
September 2020	813
October 2020	922
November 2020	1,635
December 2020	2,223
January 2021	1,419
February 2021	314
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,587</b>

### **Jan. 2020-Feb. 2021 COVID-19 Claim Details**

Total COVID-19 Claim Awards	324
Total COVID-19 Claim Denials	3,744
Total COVID-19 Claim for Benefits Filed	1,250
Total COVID-19 Death Cases	24

### **Jan. 2020-Feb. 2021**

#### **COVID-19 Claim Award Types**

Original Award	263
Medical Only	40
Additional Award	2
Compromise Settlement (Petition and Order)	18
Judicial Opinion, Stipulated Order, Judicial Order	8
Amended Original	3
Fatal	1